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**MEMO****NEW JERSEY STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**TO David Beeman/Jeff Sterling

November 17, 1988

FROM David Oster

DATE

SUBJECT Synkote Paint, Elmwood Park DHWM #02-11-04

On 11/10/88 Dave Oster of MBE and Jim Taradash of Bergen County Health Services returned to Synkote Paint in order to enter facility grounds, check individual drums and obtain photographs. On a previous visit Oster and Taradash had noted approximately 200 55-gal drums outside the abandoned Synkote building, and additional drums inside. Some were observed to have hazardous waste labels and many were in poor condition.

After climbing the fence at the rear of the property Oster and Taradash entered the Synkote building through an unlocked door. Taradash pointed out 16 black drums of unknown material. One of these had previously leaked and Taradash had responded with Bergen County Hazmat. Speedi-Dry had been used to contain an unknown, dark liquid. Some of the black drums were marked "1/2 pt. cans." Also present inside the building are a hazardous waste salvage drum marked S&W Waste and dated 11/25/85, containers of resin (marked "toxic") and Primer ("flammable liquid"), a bucket of caustic soda, paint waste sludge and 12 additional unknown drums.

Also inside the building is a "lab table" with numerous known and unknown chemicals. These include:

- Butanol
- Epichlorhydrin (4 32-OZ. cans, poison liquid)
- Neoprene latex (strong alkaline)
- Glacial acetic acid (1 qt.)
- Diethanolamine (1 qt.)
- 2-Ethylhexoic acid (1 qt.)
- Triethanolamine (1 gal.)
- Isophorone (1 gal.- hazardous substance)
- 2 1-gal jugs marked "acid"
- unlabeled liquids and solids

Spillage was noted throughout the interior of the building, including resin, paint sludge and unknown material. There is evidence of leakage under reactor vessels and these vessels may contain residual material as well. Photographs of hazardous waste containers and spillage were obtained.

Moving to the outside of the property individual drums were checked for contents and condition. The 200 or more drums can be broken down into the following broad categories:

- 1) Yellow salvage drums (approximately 1/4 of all drums present). Condition ranges from good to very poor. Some unmarked, some with labels, e.g., "D001 Trichlor," "D001 Flammable," "Waste Corrosive Liquid." Some have hazardous waste labels not filled out.

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- 2) About 30 rusty drums, condition fair to poor, staged in the center of the property. Chalk markings "HWS" (Hazardous Waste Solid?) and "HWL" (Hazardous Waste Liquid?) Some of these drums were corroded through and had discharged to the ground.
- 3) Numerous drums of paint waste sludge or resin, (approximately 1/3 of drums present) some of which had spilled or discharged.
- 4) Empty drums (approximately 1/4 of all drums).

Representative photographs of the above were obtained. Oster and Taradash then secured the property as best they could and departed.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS/CONCLUSIONS:**

Conditions at Synkote Paint represent a potential threat to both the environment and human health. Some of the drums have already discharged onto the ground, and others will do so in the future if they are not overpacked and/or removed. In addition, there are many flammables on-site, and fumes or vapors from fire could threaten nearby residences and active businesses. As the property is accessible to the public (including the interior of the building) the possibility of arson must be considered. Persons entering the property and tampering with chemical or waste containers might also create a reactive situation, aside from exposing themselves to hazardous materials.

Although Synkote is an unassigned ECRA case, the situation demands action by MBE. The owner should be identified, issued NOV's for hazardous waste and Spill Act violations, and ordered to remove drums and other containers for proper disposal. If necessary a Directive should be issued, with the Department ready to perform publicly-funded cleanup.

DO:jap